

PUNKAHARJU SNOWSHOE PARK



8 BREATHTAKING
AND VERSATILE
SNOWSHOE TRAILS
IN ICONIC FINNISH LANDSCAPES

New Nature Reserve experience

PUNKAHARJU SNOWSHOE PARK

Adventure – New experiences – Nature – Exercise

8 marked trails in some of the most beautiful landscapes in Finland

Snowshoe walks give you an opportunity to experience winter nature in a way that is almost impossible to find otherwise. We have created eight magnificent and clearly marked snowshoe trails around the ridges of the Punkaharju Nature Reserve and other exciting terrain. The trails include alternatives for all ages and fitness levels, and no previous experience in snowshoe walking is required on the easier trails, although Punkaharju Snowshoe Park does provide experienced hikers and nature walkers with plenty of challenges. You can go for a snowshoe walk on your own, with friends or you can ask to go one of our guided walks.

The walks are environmentally friendly, and we leave no permanent traces in the natural surroundings. We design our trails around the principle that not one branch is broken to make a trail. We hope that you enjoy the wintery walks in iconic Finnish landscapes in a way that respects nature's delicateness!

Ask the partners of the Snowshoe Park listed on the back of the brochure for detailed trail maps and descriptions.

General information

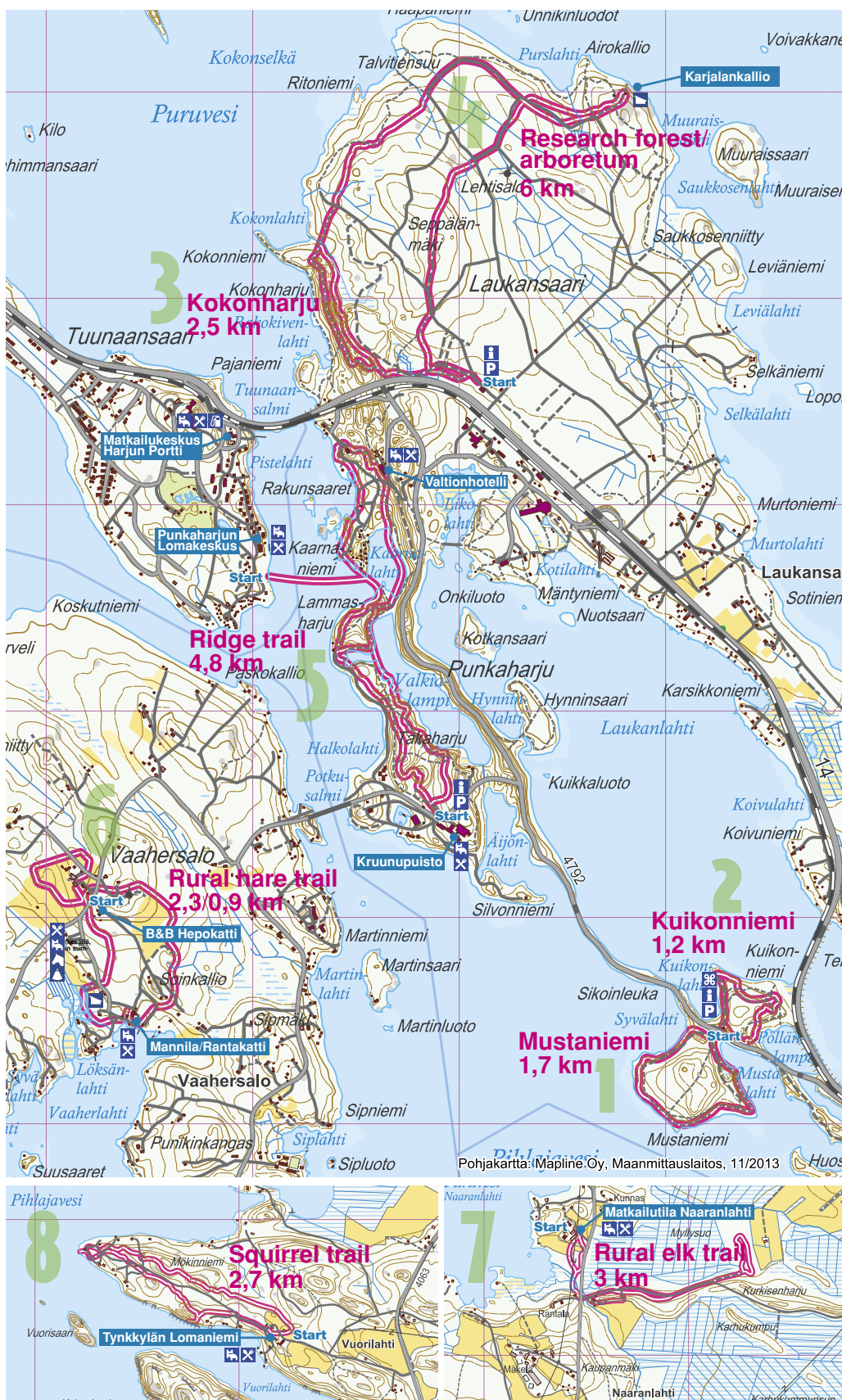
The trails are marked with ribbons tied to tree trunks (see picture). We recommend that you walk the trails in the direction of the description, but you may choose to walk in the opposite direction as well.



Estimated walking times are based on the pace of a walker with a normal level of fitness taking small breaks throughout the walk. The fitness level of the walker, the amount of snow and the length of breaks can easily double the duration of the walk.

The snowshoe trails are not cleared; rather, the trail is formed by the walkers. Keep the map with you on the walk so that you can follow the landmarks as you go.

All walkers enter trails at their own risk, and particular caution should be used on steeper hillsides. Always keep the phone number of your accommodation provider with you, and ask for directions or help if necessary. When making calls, have the name of the trail at hand.





1 Mustaniemi scenic trail – breathtaking scenery around Lake Saimaa

*Length: 1.7 km; snowshoe walk approx. 45 min
Degree of difficulty: easy; suitable for beginners*

This route over easy terrain offers magnificent winter scenes over Lake Saimaa throughout the trail. The ridge formations around the cape keep the trail interesting and challenging. The trail is easily combined with the Kuikonniemi war history trail on the other side of the road.



2 Kuikonniemi war history trail – a glimpse into one of the largest bunker lines in the world

*Length: 1.2 km; snowshoe walk approx. 45 min
Degree of difficulty: easy; suitable for beginners*

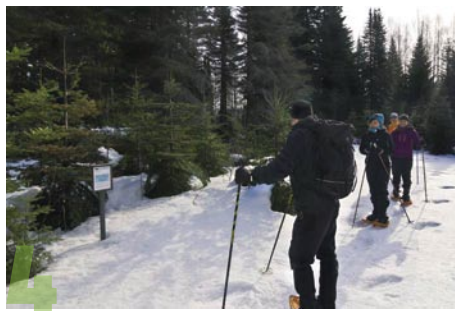
Kuikonniemi is part of the Salpa Line – one of the world's longest bunker lines. The trail visits the bunker line where you can see the remains of old anti-tank trenches, a restored dugout and other trenches. You can easily continue your walk around the Mustaniemi scenic lake trail, which runs on the other side of the road.



3 Kokonharju old-growth forest trail – mesmerising natural beauty only few hundred metres from local amenities

*Length: approx. 2.5 km; snowshoe walk approx. 1 h 30 min
Degree of difficulty: mainly easy; some challenging terrain*

Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience an old-growth forest in its natural state located only few hundred meters away from local amenities. The trail takes you to the top of a ridge through a stunning pine forest, where you can even see Finland's tallest pine. Put your fitness to the test by descending down to the Puruvesi lakeside and climbing back up the steep hillside again.



4 Explore the Arboretum/research forest and visit the Karjalankallio laavu hut – a day trip into lush nature

*Length: approx. 6 km; snowshoe walk approx. 4 h
Degree of difficulty: suitable for fit and experienced snowshoe walkers*

The first seedlings in the Punkaharju Arboretum were planted in 1887. The research forest is an ideal place for spotting trees that are not naturally found in Finland. The highlight of the trail is the view from the Karjalankallio rock. Here, you can rest in a well-equipped laavu hut, make a campfire and eat your packed lunch while admiring the breathtaking views over Lake Puruvesi.



5 Ridge trail – history and culture enveloped in natural beauty

*Length: 4.8 km (longest trail); snowshoe walk approx. 2 h 30 min, shorter trails approx. 3 km; snowshoe walk approx. 1 h 45 min
Degree of difficulty: relatively easy; basic level of fitness required*

Tsar Alexander showed great foresight during his inspection journey in 1803, when he prohibited slash-burning in the area and required the local land to be acquired by the state. The Tsar's vision of stunning ridge views is now a reality and available for all visitors to see around the Punkaharju Nature Reserve. Using snowshoes, you can access all the best locations without spoiling the nature at all, on a trail takes you from ridges to hollows and on an icy pond. This is a unique experience found only in Punkaharju's iconic surroundings!



6 Rural hare trail for the whole family – easy and fun alternatives for families with children

Length: the longer trail is 2.3 km, snowshoe walk approx. 1 h 30 min; children's mini trail is 0.9 km, snowshoe walk approx. 45 min around the Hepokatti B&B

Degree of difficulty: very easy; suitable for all ages

Where hares go, snowshoes can go as well. This is true on Vaahersalo island in Punkaharju, where the entire family can enjoy either the longer family trail or the Little Leveret mini trail designed for the younger children. Both trails cover an idyllic rural landscape near the Hepokatti B&B and Hotel Rantakatti. Comfortable kota and laavu huts along the trail allow walkers to sit down and eat their packed lunch around a campfire. Keep an eye out, because you're almost guaranteed to spot hares or fresh hare tracks on this trail!



7 Rural elk trail – a walk in fresh forest air starts at your doorstep

Length: approx. 3 km; snowshoe walk approx. 1 h 45 min

Degree of difficulty: easy; no previous snowshoe walking experience required

The trail near the Naaranlahti Estate by Lake Puruvesi is a place to tune into silence – the only noise disrupting the silence is the rhythmic pecking of the great spotted woodpecker. The snowshoe trails start right from your doorstep, and there is plenty of space for practising snowshoe walking in the yard.

8 Squirrel trail taking you to the home of the Saimaa ringed seal

Length: approx. 2.7 km; snowshoe walk approx. 1 h 45 min

Degree of difficulty: relatively easy; no previous snowshoe walking experience required

Tynkkylän Lomaniemi specialises in high-quality holiday home accommodation and catering and is situated by Saimaa's Lake Pihlajavesi, where the Saimaa ringed seal is known to live. You may actually be able to spot a ringed seal as many of our visitors have done over the years. The snowshoe trails start right outside the main building and include enchanting forests and a thrilling descent down a ridge to a pier.

Partners of the Punkaharju Snowshoe Park

The partners of Punkaharju Snowshoe Park would be more than happy to assist you. Each partner can provide you with maps and more detailed information on the snowshoe trails.

The nature reserve snowshoe trails have been created in cooperation with Metsähallitus (state enterprise administering state-owned land and water areas) while the Research forest/ arboretum trail was designed together with the Finnish Forest Research Institute to consider the particular needs of the local natural environment.



Holiday Resort Harjun Portti – offering a huge range of winter activities!

Have a pleasant stay in one of our cottages, and enjoy the cross-country skiing tracks or tour skating only few steps away from your cottage; the Snowshoe Park trails are also just around the corner. A restaurant, shop, fuel and equipment rental – all in one place. Our equipment rental can provide you with: snowshoes, tour skates, ice hockey and figure skates, tour skating and skate skiing shoes, kicksleds, sleds, bum boards, an Alpine curling set, curling stones, etc.

Useful tip: visit us by train, the station is just around the corner!

Holiday Resort Harjun Portti
Tel. +358 44 755 0382
harjunportti@harjunportti.fi
www.harjunportti.fi



Hepokatti B&B

The Hepokatti B&B is located in Vaahersalo in Punkaharju, only a five-minute drive from the ridge area. We welcome families in particular to our traditional rural locale.

Hepokatti is fully open in the summer, while our café and small petting farm are also open during winter school holidays. Our snowshoe trails are open throughout the winter, and the self-service kota hut in our yard is available for use by visitors. We also have some snowshoes available for hire.

Useful tip: join the Little Leverets' sledging competition during winter school holidays! Welcome!

B&B Hepokatti
Tel. +358 45 342 9797
info@majoitushepokatti.fi
www.majoitushepokatti.fi



Kruunupuisto Hotel&Spa

You will find Kruunupuisto in a stunning location by Saimaa's Lake Pihlajavesi, surrounded by the ridges. We offer hotel accommodation, a restaurant, spa, wellness and therapy services and wellness breaks.

We hire out snowshoes and other sports equipment, and you can also book guided walks for groups. The snowshoe trail running through the ridge area can be accessed right from our doorstep.

Useful tip: why not take a dip into the relaxing warm waters of our spa after a day of snowshoe walking!

Kruunupuisto
Tel. +358 20 763 9130
myyntipalvelu@kruunupuisto.fi
www.kruunupuisto.fi



Punkaharjun Lomakeskus

Punkaharjun Lomakeskus holiday resort offers a wide range of accommodation alternatives, from traditional cottages to grand villas and holiday flats with private saunas.

The resort restaurant is open on weekends during the winter season. You can also book a sauna and/or one of the Saimaan Huljupuisto outdoor bathing tubs. The snowshoe trail running through the ridge area can be accessed right from your doorstep!

Useful tip: enjoy a cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows by the fireplace after your snowshoe walk!

Punkaharjun Lomakeskus
Tel. +358 29 007 4050
info@punkaharjunlomakeskus.fi
www.punkaharjunlomakeskus.fi



Mannila Farm

Mannila Farm is located on rural Vaahersalo island by Saimaa's Lake Pihlajavesi, only a few kilometres away from the ridge area.

Local accommodation alternatives include Hotel Rantakatti, a range of villas of different sizes and a caravan site. Hotel Rantakatti also has a restaurant and a café.

There are horse riding stables and the Hepokatti petting farm nearby too, and a well-lit hill suitable for sledging and even some small-scale snowboarding. A snowshoe trail starts right outside Hotel Rantakatti. We have some snowshoes available for hire.

Useful tip: our spacious villas will easily accommodate the whole clan for the holidays!

Mannila Farm
Tel. +358 15 644 400
maatilamatkailu.mannila@co.inet.fi
www.maatilamatkailumannila.com



Naaranlahti Estate

Naaranlahti Estate is located by the clear waters of Lake Puruvesi, just 16 kilometres east of central Punkaharju. Accommodation options include rooms with a kitchenette, shower and toilet, and holiday flats. A delicious breakfast is included in the room price.

Snowshoe trails and cross-country skiing tracks start right from our yard. We hire out snowshoes, cross-country skiing equipment and snowmobiles. Horse riding and sleigh rides are also available.

Useful tip: ask about a guided trip for a fishing experience to see the thrilling giant breams and pike of wintery Lake Puruvesi!

Naaranlahti Estate
Tel. +358 15 473 123
info@naaranlahti.com
www.naaranlahti.com



Punkaharjun Valtionhotelli

The main landmark in the ridge area is the Punkaharjun Valtionhotelli (Punkaharju State Hotel), built in 1845, and the nearby Villa Keisarinnä. The hotel's accommodation and restaurant services are available during the summer season.

The snowshoe trails run right past the Valtionhotelli hotel. Take a moment to admire the beautiful building.

Useful tip: take a picture of your snowshoe walk around the Valtionhotelli hotel and send the picture to us via e-mail by 1 May. You will be entered into a draw where the winner gets an idyllic night at the hotel for two during summer 2014!

Punkaharjun Valtionhotelli
Tel. +358 20 752 9100
info@punkaharjunvaltionihotelli.fi
www.punkaharjunvaltionihotelli.fi



Lusto – the Finnish forest museum

As a national museum and science centre focusing on Finnish forest culture, Lusto is an ideal place for the whole family to visit. Lusto's versatile exhibitions demonstrate the importance of forests in the Finnish culture in an exciting way. The winter exhibitions are open from Tuesdays to Sundays between 10 am and 5 pm.

Lusto is also home to the Punkaharju Tourism Office, where all Snowshoe Park trail maps are available.

Useful tip: come and test your skills on a forest machine simulator!

Lusto
Tel. +35815 345 100
lusto@lusto.fi • www.lusto.fi



Tynkkylän Lomaniemi

The Tynkkylän Lomaniemi holiday resort is located by Saimaa's Lake Pihlajavesi, 24 kilometres south of central Punkaharju. The resort has stunning views over Lake Pihlajavesi, which is also one of the homes of the Saimaa ringed seal.

Tynkkylän Lomaniemi offers high-quality accommodation in well-equipped villas with private shorelines hidden away around the cape. We also have some snowshoes available for hire.

Useful tip: bring your ice fishing gear with you – your dinner might be waiting for you in the lake!

Tynkkylän Lomaniemi
Tel. +358407326138
tynkkyla@lomaniemi.fi
www.lomaniemi.fi